

# Town Meeting



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## How Can We Clean up College Sports?

*Moderator, GEORGE V. DENNY, JR.*

### *Speakers*

WILLIAM ZECKENDORF

MAX LERNER

JOHN W. BUNN

PAUL GALICO



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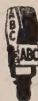
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## How Can We Clean up College Sports?

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### THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

**PAUL GALICO**—Writer and former sports editor and columnist of the *New York Daily News*, 1924-36. Immediately following graduation from Columbia University in 1921, Mr. Galico became the movie critic of the *New York Daily News*. He became the sports editor of the *News* in 1924, a position in which he gained an outstanding reputation as a sports analyst. Since 1936 he has been a free lance fiction writer and has written several books including: *Farewell to Sport* (1938); *The Secret Front* (1940); *Golf is a Friendly Game* (1942); and *The Abandonee*.

**WILLIAM ZECKENDORF**—President of the Board of Trustees, Long Island University; member of the Board of Directors, American Broadcasting Company; and President, Webb & Knapp, Inc., one of the largest real estate firms in the country. Outside of professional real estate and financial quarters, Mr. Zeckendorf is best known for the role he played in helping to bring the United Nations to New York. A man of diversified interests, Mr. Zeckendorf is a director of Phoenix Industries Corporation, the New York Anti-Crime Committee, the American National Theatre and Academy, Greenwich House, and the New York Heart Association.

**JOHN W. BUNN**—Professor of Physical Education. Director of Athletics and Basketball Coach at Springfield (Mass.) College, and past president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. After nine years as athletic coach at the University of Kansas, Mr. Bunn went to Stanford University in 1930. During the war he was granted a leave of absence, and spent considerable time in Europe as an athletic consultant for the War Department. Mr. Bunn is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. He is author of the following books: *Basketball Methods*, *The Art of Basketball Officiating*, and *The Art of Sports Officiating*.

**MAX LERNER**—Political scientist, lecturer and columnist for the *New York Post*. Since 1949 Mr. Lerner has been professor of American Civilization and Institutions, and he is currently head of the School of Social Science at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. He has been professor of political science at Williams College, 1936-43, and has taught social science at Sarah Lawrence College, 1932-36. A former editor of *The Nation*, Mr. Lerner is now contributing editor of the *New Republic*. He has also been associated with the late New York newspapers, *PM* and the *New York Star*. He is author of several books including, *Ideas for the Ice Age* (1941), and *The Mind and Faith of Justice Holmes* (1943).

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## How Can We Clean up College Sports?

**Moderator Denny:**

(Good evening, neighbors. Tonight the national spotlight is on the Senate Crime Investigation in New York City. There was a time when the life of the outlaws seemed attractive and glamorous, especially to youngsters, who imagined themselves in the role of the successful badman. But, today, as we read and hear daily the overwhelming evidence of the moral cancers in the bloodstream of this great nation, a feeling of unease and moral indignation is seeping the country.

We adults have grown accustomed to occasional exposure to political corruption but when we learn that the foul hands of professional gamblers, who leave nothing to chance, have reached out onto the playing fields of our young men and women, our collective wrath rises. But very quickly we must ask ourselves if we in any way to blame and, also, in what way. What part, if any, have we had in encouraging the tragic scandals recently revealed in the bribery of some of the best basketball players in the country for fixing the big games in Madison Square Garden?

To help us examine this question we have invited the President of the Board of Trustees of Long Island University—three of whose students were involved in the fixed basketball games in Madison Square Garden; the Director of Athletics and Basketball Coach at Springfield (Mass.) College, the replacement of basketball; the former sports columnist of the *Daily News*; and a Brandeis University

Professor and columnist to help us.

Few writers in America have the capacity to express their moral indignation as effectively as Max Lerner, Professor of American Civilization at Brandeis University and columnist for *The New York Post*. He has written extensively on tonight's subject. We are delighted to welcome back to Town Hall, Max Lerner.

**Mr. Lerner:**

Mr. Zeckendorf is going to talk to you as a college administrator, which I'm not responsible enough to be. Mr. Gallico will talk as a sports writer, which I'm not serious enough to be. Mr. Bunn will talk to you as a college coach, which I'm not intelligent enough to be. I want to talk to you as a college professor, one who has been a college teacher, on and off, much longer than I care to think.

Knowing some of these students, I feel the only effective way to clean up college sports is to clean up college education and our culture at the same time. The students are good human material. They are plastic material ready to be shaped, but let's ask—what is it that shapes them? I suggest that students learn not from what we say and from what we preach, but from what we do and what we are. What we do speaks so loudly that it drowns out what we profess.

The students look around them and they see a culture in which there are too many people who are venal, and too many things that are vendable—for sale. They see that there is a price for

everything and for almost everyone. They see the question of money always thrust into the foreground. They see commercialism moving into the campus, college sports becoming a big industry and millions of dollars wagered on the outcome of their skills. Is it any surprise that there are some who get corrupted?

If you say the answer is to take sports back to the campus and away from the commercial arenas, I say, "yes, that's part of the answer," sure, but it's not all the answer. Remove the temptations from the boys as much as you can but they'll have to meet temptations all through life—all of us have to. It is much more important to strengthen the core of resistance that makes temptation to sell out, a feeble and tawdry thing. To me the frightening thing about college youth is that they go for the sure thing. If you ask graduating classes what they want, what they want is a moderate income for life with a big corporation. If you study the statements these youngsters made who dumped the basketball games, you'll find that they didn't do it out of a sense of adventure or to get spending money. They did it to put a nest egg away which would start them in their careers. They salted it down in bank accounts or in a shoe box or in a flower pot. It was security money.

And I think what's at fault is this overvaluing of security, which can come only in a society where young people feel terribly insecure. Remember, many of these youngsters were depression babies, brought up in a depression era. And someone comes along and says, "Here's a sure thing, you can't miss"—so they fall for it.

What we need is a group of teachers who will shift the emphasis from teaching skills and piling up facts, as if the student's mind were a bank, to the teaching of the whole student—his mind and his heart, and his emotions and his character, yes, his character. The core of education should be the effort to get the student to study himself and his culture, and the values that go to make up a good culture, and the values that go to make up a decent man. But let me add, that before we can make these changes in our students, we'll have to work about making them in ourselves and in our society.

#### **Moderator Denny:**

Thank you, Max Lerner. Mr. William Zeckendorf is President of Webb & Knapp, one of the largest real estate firms in the country. He is President of the Board of Trustees of Long Island University and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Broadcasting Company. President of the Board of Trustees of one of the colleges whose students were involved in the recent basketball scandals he has had to deal very directly with this question. We are happy to welcome to our Town Meeting, Mr. William Zeckendorf.

#### **Mr. Zeckendorf:**

It is hard to disagree with Mr. Lerner's central point, as we are all against sin and we all want a sound, moral basis for intercollegiate sports.

Intercollegiate sports had their origin, in the early days of the republic, in an atmosphere and surroundings of ivy-covered buildings and green campuses. The growth of the nation, from five



10 million, has brought changes in the American way of life which were inconceivable at the outset. These changes have transformed every aspect of our communal life.

In my opinion, insufficient consideration by the educators has been given to the circumstances that have come to prevail through the impact of over-publicized and promoted intercollegiate sporting events.

No longer is it a question of the undergraduate and the old grad meeting in the convivial spirit of reunion. Business corporations own large stadia throughout the nation and have become sports promoters in college fields. As a result, players have become exposed to the followers of big time sports including gamblers and racketeers. We are developing a national stadium-mania. However, in my judgment this is on the wane because television will soon take the spectators out of the stadium.

We've gotten away from the basic principle of college competition as a result of tremendous publicity stress and the ill conceived theory on the part of college authorities that there is a relationship between university prestige and a winning team. This idea is an erroneous one for obvious reasons. But the result of the effort to have a winning team has finally brought us to the state of affairs, climaxed by the recent deplorable exposures, to which Mr. Denny has referred.

We, at Long Island University, have abolished intercollegiate basketball for the present. In making this drastic step the University trustees have done so reluctantly but firmly in the hope and belief, that after the furor and

the emotional phases of the present dilemma have quieted down, we can develop a new grass-roots philosophy of sports.

It is our firm intent to encourage a far broader participation among our students in sports and to get away from the over-publicizing of a few crack athletes. We must get away from a gladiatorial aspect of college sports and get back to the theory and principle that sports are basically established for the purpose of improving health, inspiring the competitive instinct, and developing the sportsman's philosophy toward life. Athletics can contribute, by this means, to a better America through participation of all for the love of sport itself.

The unhappy and sordid developments resulting from inroads by gangsterism into college life must and will cease. We at Long Island University take pride in making a contribution toward progress in that direction through our recent decision.

#### **Moderator Denny:**

Thank you, Mr. Zeckendorf. Our next speaker is one of the ablest interpreters of current American life writing today. He is a former sports editor and columnist of *The New York Daily News*, he has been a war correspondent for *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, he has written for our best publications and is the author of several books including his latest, *The Abandoned*. He has a proposal to make on tonight's subject. Mr. Paul W. Gallico.

#### **Mr. Gallico:**

Mr. Zeckendorf, if you follow through on the action that you

have taken at Long Island University then you and I will be in complete agreement, tonight, I believe.

You know fifteen years ago when I was writing sports, we used to say of an amateur athlete who turned in his card and joined the professional ranks, that he had "turned square." In other words he had become an honest man and was now being paid over the table, instead of under it.

At that time I published a book called *Farewell to Sport* in which among other things I wrote—and this mind you was fifteen years ago—"College football today is one of the last great strongholds of genuine old-fashioned American hypocrisy. . . . with the repeal of Prohibition and the legalizing of betting on the horses . . . football has stepped into the breach nobly and seems only to be beginning to come into its own as the leader in the field of double-dealing, deception, sham, cant, humbug and organized hypocrisy. . . . Like the chronic drunk, it has its moments of remorse, but equally like the inveterate souse, the benders following the periods of repentance are that much bigger and better. The future looks rosy . . . for which reason I say farewell and also good riddance to a game riddled with hypocrites, liars, perjurers and sophists."

Well, that future is now, today, and we have collected the harvest we have sown. For football, read basketball. Or don't even bother. For it would only have been a question of time before bribery and the fix could likewise have hit college football.

If you want to clean up so-called amateur sport and college sport the first thing to be done is to

clean up the men who run it and take them out of the business of professional sports promotion.

Where in amateur sport, as conducted in the United States, in or out of colleges, is a young man to learn anything constructive about morals, ethics or honesty? Nothing was ever more cynically hypocritical, or calculated to destroy a boy's illusion and moral fiber than big time college sports today. And in this respect I firmly agree with you, Mr. Lerner.

The schools demand that ostensibly their players be amateurs. But these same colleges and universities are professionally in the sports promoting business. Admission is charged for football, baseball, basketball, track, anything else that will sell a ticket or draw a crowd.

Everybody in this promotion except the students is paid. The graduate manager, the coaches, trainers, groundskeepers, masseurs, ticket sellers and takers, publicists, men, secretaries, all make a living out of the gate receipts. Radio and television rights are sold to big companies who use them for advertising and plug their products during the games. Further, the university itself receives millions of dollars worth of free space in the papers through the efforts of the athletes.

To attract players these professional college promoters use every underhand subterfuge except an adequate cash payment for services rendered. There is only one of two decent solutions. Either pay the athlete for his services or, as you suggest, Mr. Zeckendorf, retire the college from professional promotion of intercollegiate sports. As it stands today the relationship between player and college is



essically dishonest. What has followed is only logical.

**Moderator Denny:**

Thank you, Paul Gallico. We hear next from John W. Bunn, director of Athletics and Basketball Coach at Springfield College, (Mass.), former President and now chairman of the Board of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, who feels keenly the attack of professional gamblers on college sports and has a constructive solution to suggest. Mr. John W. Bunn.

**Mr. Bunn:**

Mr. Denny, as the only individual on this panel who is actively engaged in athletics, I'm not sure that I'm capable of defending the sport but I shall try. The current exposé of gambling practices at Madison Square Garden is merely a surface indication of a trend which underlies our whole social structure. Society has been moving gradually in the direction of moral degeneration. We tend to worship values which are entirely material. Generally we accept the philosophy that anything is justified if you don't get caught. Personal integrity seems to be a rare quality among human beings. Mr. Lerner suggests taking the sports away from the commercial sports arenas as a partial solution. I don't agree.

The tendency is to throw stones at large sports areas and their directors. Rather, a prayerful thanks should be offered for them. They have done much to develop sports, and now it is through these avenues that a glaring light has been focused on this whole messy mess. New York need not be singled out as the one wicked

spot. To do that is to imply that everything is lily-white in all other parts of the country. My own personal experience in the Middle West and the Far West impels me to deny vehemently such an assumption and to brand it as false.

Now, we all seem to agree that the institutions must shoulder the blame for teaching deceit and dishonesty by their reprehensible practices of giving bribes to secure athletic talent. But, Mr. Zeckendorf, I can't see that any useful purpose is served when schedules are cancelled or when intercollegiate competition is eliminated. We should strive for more—rather than less—competition. There is valid evidence, from the results of certain play tests, to demonstrate that interest in sports by the mass is enhanced through performances of highly trained teams—the influence of those teams. A few experiments during the last war seemed to imply that the highly trained athlete developed qualities which served him nobly when survival was at stake.

To view with alarm or to run from the scene does not solve the problem or even furnish a constructive plan. Baseball did not fold up as a result of the Black Sox scandal of 1920. Rather than becoming alarmed, I am relieved, because this cancer which has been growing, but hiding, is now showing on the surface. The ailment must be treated intelligently.

If one accepts the thesis that intercollegiate competition is a desirable part of an academic program—and I subscribe to that thesis—then I don't believe, Mr. Gallico, that it is necessary to

pay the athlete for his services. The job is to provide a plan whereby it may continue on a satisfactory basis. To this end the four following proposals are submitted:

1. National standards for the conduct of athletics should be developed by a national advisory body. The standards must not compromise the true meaning of the word amateur.

2. Institutions through conferences and associations must implement these standards—now this means to give more than lip service to them.

3. Each institution must supervise its athletic program in an honest, active and vigilant fashion. Reform must begin at home. No czar can impose honesty and integrity upon individuals or even institutions.

4. Leadership on the part of coaches and administrators must be dynamic and constructive. The player cannot be expected to develop a high sense of ethical values unless the leadership sets the example. Good sportsmanship and high ethical standards are not an inherent part of sports. But sports do provide an excellent vehicle for bringing out the influence of leadership and particularly in collegiate or competitive sports.

If we are sufficiently aroused and now mortified by the present plight in which we find ourselves, there is really hope for recovery.

So rather than fold up I suggest that we wake up.

**Moderator Denny:**

Thank you, Mr. Bunn. Well, there are a couple of conclusions we can draw, so far, in the dis-

cussion—that we can't make people honest with a club and we can't resolve this problem by running away. So maybe you gentlemen would like to ask some questions of each other to help clarify this discussion. We'll start with Mr. Lerner.

**Mr. Lerner:** I would say that Mr. Bunn's specific proposals were pretty interesting and valuable, but Mr. Bunn, you say that instead of throwing stones at the commercial arenas we ought to give them our prayerful thanks because it's through them and I quote "that glaring light has been focused on this whole dirty mess." Mr. Bunn, isn't that a little like saying that we ought to give prayerful thanks to the big crime syndicates in this country, because it's through them that a light has been focused on the Kefauver Committee on organized crime today?

**Mr. Bunn:** Well, Mr. Lerner, I'm willing to say "yes" to that because as a democratic people it seems to me that we go along in a more or less passive fashion until conditions get so bad that we have an upheaval—such as this criminal investigation at the present time such as the basketball scandal at Madison Square Garden—and then we get busy and do something about it. That seems to be the democratic process.

**Mr. Lerner:** Let us all join our prayerful thanks to the criminals of our country.

**Mr. Denny:** Maybe it's the exposure, Max, that he's extolling now, looking at both sides.

**Mr. Bunn:** I would like to make that distinction. Let's not thank the criminals but let's thank ourselves for finally waking up. But may-



suggest we ought to wake up before the criminals make us wake up.

**Mr. Denny:** I agree with you, Max, but we don't do it. Mr. Zeckendorf, have you a question here?

**Mr. Zeckendorf:** Yes, I have one for Mr. Bunn. I'd like to know why Mr. Bunn feels that we should have the continuance and a perpetuation of this large scale dramatization of the crack athlete and he dwells so little on the subject of general participation on the part of the student body at large. Why is it, sir, that you feel that this should continue on a basis where only a few, on a gladiatorial basis, represent their school?

**Mr. Bunn:** I told you Mr. Denny that I was going to be a lone voice defending athletics before we got through here.

**Mr. Denny:** Yes, but you've got to defend something besides athletics, Mr. Bunn. I think what Mr. Zeckendorf is getting at is that you've got to defend stadium-mania and gladiatorial — I think that's the word he used. . . .

**Mr. Bunn:** Yes, that's quite correct. I don't think that we have that altogether isolated in Madison Square Garden. We have some old houses around the country that hold even more patrons than Madison Square Garden. And I included in a part of my manuscript the fact that we had some evidence, on the basis of some play tests, play quizzes as a matter of fact, which were worked out some years ago, which indicated that the interest of people in sports was more or less motivated by the playing of the teams — of the finished teams in season, those that were in the gladiatorial arena, Mr. Zeckendorf, if you please. And

that is the way by which we get the interest of the masses in sports generally. That's why I am for upholding our intercollegiate program and I have no complaint about it being conducted on this large mass basis so far as spectators are concerned.

**Mr. Zeckendorf:** I'm afraid, Mr. Bunn, that you're advocating athleticism instead of athletics.

**Mr. Lerner:** And may I add that Mr. Bunn's remarks are a sad commentary—if their studies are true—they're a sad commentary on the capacity of our physical education instructors to awaken interest among the large student bodies and not just among the athletes.

**Mr. Bunn:** Well, you see I've got to come back now to the person that we commonly call the academician. I wish it were possible that in our classes in sociology and in history we could awaken the same interest and enthusiasm that we are able to awaken in the boy in intercollegiate athletics. I'm sorry we haven't been able to do it. I can't explain it but it is through the medium of our athletic program that we engage the interest of the mass.

**Mr. Denny:** All right. Mr. Gallico, we haven't heard from you for a while.

**Mr. Gallico:** Well, poor Brother Bunn is really catching it, tonight. I also have a question for Mr. Bunn, and mine is a really dirty one. Mr. Bunn, just what do you mean by the true meaning of the word "amateur"?

**Mr. Bunn:** I brought a document along for fear you were going to ask that.

**Mr. Gallico:** I was afraid of that.

**Mr. Bunn:** I am now quoting, Mr. Gallico, from the Handbook of the Eastern College Athletic Conference, and this statement is taken almost bodily from the N.C.A.A. Handbook and it reads as follows: "An amateur sportsman is one who engages in sports for the physical, mental, and social benefits, he derives therefrom and to whom the sport is an avocation."

**Mr. Gallico:** This, I would say, does not apply to a single big time college athlete today.

**Mr. Denny:** Before we take the questions from this eager audience here I think we ought to give Mr. Bunn a chance to ask the other people questions. They've been firing questions at him pretty fast here. Mr. Bunn?

**Mr. Bunn:** Thank you very much for the chance for the rebuttal here, Mr. Denny. I'd first like to ask Mr. Gallico this question. Mr. Gallico, aren't you assuming, because of the recruiting that is going on in some instances and the high amount of subsidy that's paid some athletes, aren't you assuming that all athletes are treated in the same way, and aren't you overlooking the hundreds and thousands of boys who are really playing for the fun of the sport?

**Mr. Gallico:** Well, Mr. Bunn, those hundreds of thousands of boys, who are playing for the fun of the sport, don't get the publicity. The ones who get the damaging publicity are the ones who are subsidized and all I am trying to do, or would like to do, is get people to be honest about the thing.

**Mr. Denny:** All right, thank you. Have you got another question there, Mr. Bunn?

**Mr. Bunn:** Yes, I'd like to come back at Mr. Zeckendorf, if I may. Mr. Denny. Mr. Zeckendorf, you made a statement that we needn't worry so much about the large stadia because television was going to take care of the matter. I know that a great amount of study has been carried on recently by the colleges in this connection, but I am also reminded of the fact that, when radio first began, we were very much concerned for fear radio was going to destroy our athletic program and our spectators income therefrom. I'm wondering if, perhaps, we aren't going through the same stages even though it may be more imminent with respect to TV — going through the same stages with respect to television — as we went through during the early stages of the development of radio.

**Mr. Zeckendorf:** I had an illustration, Mr. Bunn, on Saturday night that taught me a great lesson on the subject of television. It was at the Commodore Hotel, in the grand ballroom, that the present Heart Campaign for the Heart Fund in the greater city of New York was being conducted by the Liquor Authority. There they put on, on a series of diases, some 150 or 200 men of public note behind the telephones, all of whom were being televised, and they focused the television machine on a stage, which stood in front of it, and the stage produced the show. The men on the telephones took calls that came from all over the United States for the purpose of talking to these people who were at the telephone and by people who wished to make gifts to the present Heart Campaign. That night, an amount was raised



that I believe is unequalled in the history of drives put on, on that basis. One hundred and sixteen thousand dollars was raised mostly in one and two and three dollar donations. The power of television to get people to give is, in itself, tremendous evidence of its power and its appeal. And if it can get people to make gifts to a charity it can get people to stay home to look at a better football game than they can see in the snow.

**Mr. Bunn:** Mr. Zeckendorf, I understand that Kate Smith raised over a million dollars over the radio.

**Mr. Denny:** For the heart campaign. No, that was for War Bonds, I believe. We mustn't let the radio down. Yes, she sold over a million dollars' worth.

**Mr. Zeckendorf:** I'd like to say there is quite a distinction between gift and lending the government money. I'd like to think so.

**Mr. Denny:** Are you sure about that, Mr. Zeckendorf?

**Mr. Zeckendorf:** All right, I'm sure about it.

**Mr. Denny:** All right. Mr. Bunn, are you going to let Max Lerner come?

**Mr. Bunn:** No, I don't want to let him alone either. Max, aren't you contradicting yourself, when you say that we should take sports away from the arenas, in order to remove the temptations from the youth, and then, in the next sentence, say that youth must meet the facts of life and all the temptations that go with it? It seems to me that you are a bit inconsistent in those two statements.

**Mr. Lerner:** I don't think that I'm inconsistent. I said that even if you take sports away from the arenas and thereby try to remove the temptations you'll still have left the major problem, on which I put my major emphasis, and that is that the task of getting young people educated is the task of having them meet the problems of life as they are going to have to meet them when they get outside of the walls of the colleges. And that's where I put my emphasis—to build a fortress of strength within yourself that will make it possible for you not to have to sell out.

**Mr. Denny:** All right. Thank you Max Lerner. Now we're going to take the questions from some of the members of this audience.

# QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

*Man:* Mr. Denny, I have a question for Mr. Zeckendorf. Mr. Zeckendorf, how much profit is Long Island University giving up by its decision to abolish intercollegiate basketball?

*Mr. Denny:* Mr. Zeckendorf, if that were directed to you personally, we'd have to rule it out but since it's an institution go right ahead, sir,—if you have the figures.

*Mr. Zeckendorf:* If it were directed to me personally the result would be different, too. I'm very glad to answer the question because I think it's going to throw a great deal of light on a subject of a great deal of controversy. For the past two years, I'll quote from that, all the way through—these figures which I have at hand here—during the past two years when the university played at the Garden, the net Garden receipts after taxes on all nights when the university team played ranged \$300,000 one year and \$306,000 the next. After deducting Garden expenses of \$19,500, and \$21,000, respectively; visiting team expenses of \$24,000 and \$27,000, respectively; there was from \$257,000 to \$258,000, respectively, the university received in one year, the first year \$35,800 and the subsequent year \$33,567. The total university expenditures for coach, freshman coach, assistant coach, trainer, and other personnel was \$19,000 and \$20,000, respectively, while other expenses for scholarships and books \$14,500 and \$15,983; training table and hotels \$12,300 and \$13,980; room and board \$2543.43; supplies and equipment \$2800 and \$3500; medical aid and supplies

\$1300 and \$2512; travel fares and cartage \$11,000 and \$2600; publicity and entertainment \$1800 and \$2600; stationery, printing, postage, sundries \$1000 and \$1500; guarantees to outside teams \$850 and \$1100; gymnasium rental \$790 and \$960, motion pictures, photography \$1000 to \$1100. . . .

*Mr. Denny:* I wonder if we could skip to that total, Mr. Zeckendorf? You are discouraging everybody from going into college athletics.

*Mr. Zeckendorf:* What I would like to show is what a small time game this thing really is. The total basketball expenses were approximately \$74,000 per annum and receipts were respectively for the two years involved \$48,000 and \$38,000 or a net loss of approximately 50 per cent of the gross receipts.

*Mr. Denny:* That's what you were giving up then when you gave up basketball in Madison Square Garden.

*Mr. Zeckendorf:* That's why I said that if the question was put to me personally the answer would have been different.

*Mr. Bunn:* Mr. Denny, why are we worrying about big business if those figures are correct and wonder what figures he has for chemistry?

*Mr. Zeckendorf:* Big business has been known to be bad business, too.

*Mr. Denny:* All right. Thank you. Now we go back to the audience for questions.

*Man:* Mr. Lerner, I'd like to know—you said before the players took the money out of insecurity



This insecurity, I believe, was caused by the present world conditions. Can you blame this generation for its attitude, and conditions, resulting from the last generation's mistakes?

*Mr. Lerner:* The whole point I tried to make was that we, the rest of us, in our culture have to take upon ourselves that blame. But when you talk about blame you haven't finished with the problem. The blame belongs to all of us. But the task is to create the kind of educational framework within which this new generation, that's coming up, won't be thinking only in terms of security, but will be thinking in terms of the things that really give life meaning, which is adventure and risk and creativeness.

*Man:* Mr. Gallico, would not a return to the campus, with its resultant tapering off of publicity, gambling, betting and fixing, go a long way towards restoring the game of basketball to normalcy?

*Mr. Gallico:* Well, I think, yes, that's what I was trying to say in the talk I gave before. But, actually, I am not concerned with returning the game to the campus—the de-emphasis. What I am concerned with is returning all sports to a completely honest basis and to do that I think we have to take out gate receipts from all college sports of any kind. I shan't say profit motive, because

Mr. Zeckendorf just showed he lost 30 or 40 thousand dollars a year. But I might say that if it hadn't been for the gate receipts, Long Island University would have lost 80 thousand dollars a year,—so they did get something out of their basketball, and that is what I say has to be stopped to get the game on a completely honest basis between promoter and player.

*Man:* Mr. Lerner, isn't it a fact that down the ages we've always had sport scandals—so why not punish the culprits and continue the college sports?

*Mr. Lerner:* Well, it's also a fact that down through the ages we've had crime and mayhem and murder of all kinds, and you might ask—why not just then punish the criminals and go right on the way we were? But the fact about life, particularly when you are engaged in education, is that you're trying to do a job which is a constructive job for the country as a whole. This isn't just a question of punishing people, this is a job of building a culture that we can be proud of.

*Mr. Denny:* All right, thank you, Max Lerner, William Zeckendorf, John W. Bunn and Paul Gallico, for your contribution to tonight's important discussion.

So plan to be with us next week and every week at the sound of the Crier's Bell.

### YOUR OWN TOWN MEETING

Why not organize your own neighborhood Town Meeting? Get together every Tuesday night to listen to the program and have your own discussion afterward. Write for our free booklet titled "How to Discuss."

# TOWN MEETING DIGEST

## "SHOULD COLLEGE FOOTBALL BE SUBSIDIZED?"

*Following are excerpts from the broadcast of "America's Town Meeting" on the question of college football subsidies, which was broadcast on August 17, 1948, from East Lansing, Michigan. Because of its relationship to this week's program, we believe our readers will be interested in this digest.*



**George Halas**, owner and coach of the Chicago Bears: "I believe that college football players should be honestly and openly subsidized. . . . Collegiate codes now encourage underhand financial aid and drive it underground. How can colleges preach ethics in classrooms and at the same time condone make-work jobs and phony scholarships? . . . Honest, above-board financial aid will assist in character building. Unethical hand-outs by anonymous alumni will be a thing of the past. No longer will it be possible to corrupt the honest intentions of a boy who looks up to his college leaders for guidance."

**Clarence P. (Pop) Houston**, Faculty advisor on intercollegiate athletics at Tufts College: "(Paid) players would be merely performers and the team would merely furnish entertainment as a business enterprise like a circus. Colleges are supposed to provide an education for young men. (Subsidization) would cut out any semblance of amateurism and be of doubtful legality. . . . Participation in athletics is part of the training which helps to make the whole man. . . . To pay the student will help to rob athletics of their contribution to our American life."

**Harry Wismer**, sports director of the American Broadcasting Company: "I believe many will agree with me that most athletes have

had assistance of a sort. My thinking is that it is not subsidization that will harm the athlete but the mismanagement of subsidization that will cause the damage. You can't convince me that offering a good student and citizen honest, above-board help, in order to participate in a nation-wide sport, will harm his ideals or morals. However, I do question the type of help now given in our colleges and universities where the athlete is given a job without work. . . . just as I question the aid of some enthusiastic alumnus who hands it out with the remark 'off the record.' Do you feel that such tactics contribute to character building? Why wouldn't that easy-come assistance give lots of our young men of tomorrow the idea that things in general come pretty easy?"

**Herbert O. (Fritz) Crisler**, former football coach at the University of Michigan: "If players were paid, emphasis would be misplaced and the values distorted. Pressures of making good in order to earn money would likely make easy courses popular and low grades acceptable. . . . I presume there is nothing intrinsically dishonorable about accepting pay as a player, but if it is money that a college man wants, he ought to be able to make more in a real job than by prostituting a physical skill by offering it for sale."



# THE LISTENER TALKS BACK

## "SHOULD CONGRESS LIMIT TROOPS FOR EUROPE?"

Program of March 6

### Speakers

Senator Hubert Humphrey and  
Congressman Frederic Coudert, Jr.

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*Each week we print as many significant comments on the preceding Tuesday's broadcast as space allows. You are invited to send in your opinions, pro and con. The letters should be mailed to Department A, Town Hall, New York 18, N.Y., not later than Thursday following the program. It is understood that we may publish any letters or comments received.*

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#### WHOSE WAR?

Senator Humphrey explained that other Presidents had used the authority to send troops abroad (but) that does not necessarily make it right... If one man can rule our lives... we have a dictator and not a President. Senator Humphrey says we should stand behind our allies. What about their standing behind us for a change? What about the way the UN stalled while our boys were dying in Korea? What about the supplies they are still furnishing both Red China and Russia? . . . The people are getting sick and tired of fighting other people's wars.—MR. MRS. C. E. HARGIS, Clyde Park, Montana.

Why are we proposing to send troops to Europe at all? . . . Is it to aid the Europeans? Certainly not; it is to help ourselves. Europe is unquestionably our first line of defense, so that we are merely dispatching troops to protect our frontiers. Are we then to disregard the testimony of our military experts and allow the self-styled "experts" of Congress to take charge of our national defense?—CALVIN CRASH, JR., Rome, Georgia.

#### WHOSE DECISION?

I believe the mothers of America through their Congress have the privilege of deciding whether their sons should be sent to fight on foreign soil. Since only Congress has the right to declare war, I believe that Congress should immediately enact into law a provision requiring Congressional authorization for sending military forces abroad.—ELIZABETH N. BAKER, Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

When I have a toothache, I see a dentist; when I am sick, I see a doctor; to build a house, an architect; to test a case, a lawyer, and so on. So when it is a question of national defense, I would depend on Eisenhower, MacArthur, Marshall, and Clay, and not a lot of politicians. . . . I think Congress is not fit to judge what our military commitments should be.—EMIL C. RODERT, Kansas City, Kansas.

I feel that the generals should decide the number of troops for Europe, not the politicians. I believe the President should be free to act on advice of the military leaders. Because a man happens to

be elected to Congress doesn't make him a military strategist.—**MRS. ROBERT B. LACOSTE**, Gulfport, Mississippi.

I am not opposed to sending our troops abroad if it is necessary (and I have three sons), but our President has shown such poor judgment in the past that I do want our Congress to have the say in this matter.—**MRS. SAM HAMPTON**, Lubbock, Texas.

We all know what war is. When war comes we will go all out as we have before. You know that, and everybody else knows it. Everyone is for mobilization. Everyone is back of Eisenhower. Yes, we will send troops to Europe, but not just on Harry Truman's whim! Why not face the issue? Why not come out and say that if we had a Commander-in-Chief whom we could trust, the great debate would never even have started?—**MRS. GRACE LIEBENOW**, Santa Cruz, California.

After tonight's interesting discussion, my opinion is unchanged—that President Truman acted wisely in backing the agreement to protect member nations of the UN by the action in Korea, and I feel most strongly that the number of troops there or in Europe should be left to experts such as General MacArthur and General Eisenhower.—**LOIS WILCOX**, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

## PRECEDENTS

Senator Humphrey stated we have at least one hundred historical precedents supporting the contention that the President has authority to send troops to Europe without the consent of Congress. This is the first time in our

national history that we ever actually determined to lead an effort to create an international army for international defense in a common cause not yet an actuality. Therefore, there are no precedents equal to this occasion . . . Whenever, or if ever, the time comes when our United States Congress becomes the tool of . . . one-man control; if our Congress should ever lose the courage to strive for knowledge to legislate intelligently; if our Congress should ever become careless and indifferent about the people it has been elected to represent, then truly this nation will be in a frightfully alarming state. Our democratic ideals and the realization of them are possible only through the proper functioning of our Congress. All other agencies must be subservient to Congress—even the generals and their Commander-in-Chief.—**MRS. V. GRACE BOEHM**, Duluth, Minnesota.

## MILITARY STRATEGY

Senator Humphrey . . . assumes there is no merit whatever in some of the questions raised by Mr. Hoover, Joseph P. Kennedy, and Major Alexander de Seversky (in their) speeches of examination of the subject of strategy toward Russia. . . . Since Senator Humphrey places stress upon the views of the military, it is evident he could read Major de Seversky's points of emphasis with profit. Also does he want to ignore the manpower potential of Russia indicated by Mr. Hoover? Does he wish to ignore the limited contribution made by other nations cited by Mr. Kennedy?—**NAPOLÉON BERNARD**, Porter Corners, New York.